

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073564

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PN

SUBJECT:U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
REPORT - MARCH 25 - APRIL 1

1. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARING. APRIL 1
CLOSED SESSION ON TREATY NEGOTIATIONS PRODUCED ALMOST TWO
HOURS OF HIGHLY USEFUL CONSULTATION WITH LEADING SENATORS.
AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER
BELL AND GENERAL DOLVIN, SPOKE FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH. NINE
OF SIXTEEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS (DEMOCRATS SPARKMAN, SARBANES,
CHURCH, PELL, GLENN, AND STONE AND REPUBLICANS CASE,
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PATED. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RAN GAMUT OF TREATY ISSUES,
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WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO POST-TREATY SECURITY AND
NEUTRALITY, WHICH MANY FEEL WILL BE KEY QUESTION IN SENATE
DEBATE ON NEW CANAL ARRANGEMENT. WHILE SEVERAL SENATORS
PREDICTED HARD FIGHT TO WIN SENATE APPROVAL, THEY WERE
UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTING OF NEGOTIATIONS AND PUT FORTH MANY
CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE INDIVIDUAL
ISSUES AND THE TACTICS OF PRESENTING TREATY TO CONGRESS

AND THE PUBLIC. STONE RAISED QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN PANAMA AND SEEMED SATISFIED WITH THE NEGOTIATORS' RESPONSE.

2. BRIEFING OF PEREZ AND LOPEZ. AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND

LINOWITZ BRIEFED PRESIDENTS PEREZ AND LOPEZ MARCH 24 AND 25 IN CARACAS AND BOGOTA. BOTH PRESIDENTS HAD OBVIOUSLY RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA CONCERNING THE NEGOTIATIONS. PRESIDENT PEREZ SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A TRILATERAL (VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA) EFFORT TO PLAY A MEDIATING ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. PRESIDENT LOPEZ FELT, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR COLOMBIA TO JOIN IN THIS PROJECT BECAUSE OF COLOMBIA'S SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE CANAL STEMMING FROM THE 1913 TREATY. FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY CABLE TO CONCERNED POSTS.

3. TECHNICAL TALKS. THE PANAMANIAN DELEGATION LED BY EDWIN FABREGA ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON MARCH 27 FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CANAL ENTITY UNDER A NEW TREATY ARRANGEMENT. THE TWO SIDES CONSIDERED A PAPER PRESENTED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION AND A PANAMANIAN COUNTER DRAFT. A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE ON THE APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE REMAINED UNRESOLVED. PANAMA WISHES TO DEFINE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ENTITY IN PRECISE TERMS, WHILE THE U.S. WISHES TO LEAVE THE ENTITY WITH SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE FUNCTIONS IT CAN PERFORM. THE U.S. IS WILLING, HOWEVER, TO SPECIFY CERTAIN FUNCTIONS WHICH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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4. TORRIJOS' LIBYA TRIP. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN PANAMA MARCH 30 OF DELEGATION WHICH WILL ACCOMPANY TORRIJOS TO LIBYA SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP BY U.S. MEDIA.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS HEARINGS. ON MARCH 30, PHILIP HARMAN, WILTON ROBLES, EUSEBIO MARCHOSKY, AND WILLIAM DRUMMOND TESTIFIED BEFORE THE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN PANAMA. IN THEIR TESTIMONY, ROBLES AND MARCHOSKY, APPEARING AS SPOKESMEN OF THE PANAMANIAN COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESENTED ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE AND EXILE DRAWN MAINLY FROM VOLUME 1 OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. NEITHER ROBLES AND MARCHOSKY NOR DRUMMOND COULD SUBSTANTIATE MISTREATMENT ON THE SCALE OF "HUNDREDS OF MURDERS

AND THOUSANDS OF EXPATRIATIONS" BUT DID IMPRESS THE SUB-COMMITTEE BY TELLING THEM THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD NEVER TRIED TO CONTACT THEM. ROBLES STATED THAT THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS WERE NOT CONNECTED. ASKED WHETHER TORRIJOS AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE COMMUNIST,

ROBLES REPLIED THAT TORRIJOS HAD NO IDEOLOGY BEYOND STAY-ING IN POWER, BUT DID RECEIVE ADVICE FROM SOME COMMUNISTS. DRUMMOND CLAIMED THE PANAMANIAN LEADERS ARE GANGSTERS OUT TO ENRICH THEMSELVES, BUT ARE NOT COMMUNISTS.

6. TREATY ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS WORKING GROUP. ON MARCH 18, REPRESENTATIONS OF STATE, DEFENSE, AID, TREASURY, OMB AND THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS STAFF BEGAN A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO DEVELOP OPTIONS ON ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE NEW TREATY. AN OPTIONS PAPER AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NEGOTIATORS THE WEEK OF

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7. CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS. SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS WORKING GROUP, REPRESENTATIVES OF H, MINISTER BELL FOR THE NEGOTIATING TEAM, AND NEGOTIATING STAFFERS ARE CONSULTING WITH SENATE AND HOUSE MEMBERS AND STAFFERS ON THE SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS UNDER A NEW TREATY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT IMPRESSIONS DERIVED FROM THESE CONVERSATIONS WILL BE A MAJOR INPUT INTO THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP.

8. NEXT NEGOTIATING ROUND. THE NEGOTIATORS ANTICIPATE THAT THE NEXT ROUND MAY BE HELD IN WASHINGTON IN MID-APRIL. THE OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO CONTINUE TO REACH FOR A FORMULA WITH WHICH BOTH PARTIES CAN BE CONTENT ON THE TRIAD OF TREATY DURATION - POST-TREATY NEUTRALITY - POST-TREATY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

9. LITIGATION AGAINST PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. ON MARCH 14, SENATOR MCCLURE AND REPRESENTATIVE HANSEN FILED SUIT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLOMBIA AGAINST AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ, CHALLENGING THE LEGALITY OF HIS APPOINTMENT, ON THE GROUND THAT THE CONSTITUTION AND APPLICABLE STATUTES REQUIRE THAT HE BE CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE. WE FILED A MOTION TO DISMISS THE SUIT ON MARCH 28 WHICH WILL BE HEARD BY JUDGE FLANNERY. (AS REPORTED LAST WEEK, FLANNERY DISMISSED THE HELMS V. VANCE SUIT ON MARCH 23.)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073564

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 73564 ACTION PANAMA INFO USUN NEW YORK
PANCANAL SOUTHCOM APR 02, 1977

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073564

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